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REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report



of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

and

**SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

1953.

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1953.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL : Councillor A. J. T. JOBSON.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN : Councillor J. H. Taylor.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Councillor A. L. Davies	Councillor A. Poole
„ R. J. Dickens	„ H. D. Spencer
„ E. Harris	„ J. H. Taylor
„ J. W. Hughes	„ A. P. Wells
„ Mrs. W. K. Owen	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (a) E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Dr. V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

- (b) G. H. CHAMPION, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Senior Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector,
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

G. H. SMITH, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Additional Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector.

S. R. BAYLIS, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Additional Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector.
(1st January—30th April, 1953).

J. M. SHARP, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Additional Sanitary Inspector,
(22nd June—31st December, 1953).

Mrs. F. M. Warner — SENIOR CLERK.

Miss S. D. Stanley — CLERK.

To the Chairman and Members of the
REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the state of the public health in the Redditch Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

During the year the general health of the townspeople remained good. A marked reduction in the death rate, as explained in the report, was due to statistical rather than natural causes.

There were, for the first time, no notifications of diphtheria received

An increased number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded. This was due, in the main, to a visit by the Dudley Mass Miniature Radiography Unit to the town resulting in the discovery of 12 cases.

The provision of new housing accommodation continued to progress satisfactorily and the number of persons per unit to decrease. Immigration seemed to have been stayed for the time being.

I re-iterate my last year's plea for a change of social conscience towards the problems of the ELDERLY and good neighbourliness to assist them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. However, I am becoming increasingly concerned with the apparent inadequacy of the provision of hospital beds for elderly sick of this district. General practitioners frequently approach me to assist them find hospital accommodation for cases of sick old folk where the arrangements for their home-care are breaking down from

one cause or another. The need for hospital care in these cases is usually more on social than medical grounds, but is very real.

Too many of these old people, especially the old ladies, have to wait months for admission. I am fully aware of the difficulties facing the hospital authorities throughout the country in respect of this problem but I cannot refrain from stressing the need for more facilities to serve this district.

Certain people who will not take back and care for their old folk once hospital treatment has made them fit again to return to their own homes are not entirely without blame for this situation.

I have nothing but praises for the kindly and efficient treatment given to these old folk once they are lucky enough to be admitted to hospital. However, the difficulties so often experienced in getting them there appear to me to be excessive.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA — 12,059 Acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population,

mid 1953 — 30,490
„ 1952 — 30,360
„ 1951 — 29,400
„ 1943 — 26,390
Census 1951 — 29,184

Number of inhabited houses, end of 1953 — 9,456

„ „ 1952 — 9,261

„ „ 1951 — 9,073

„ „ 1943 — 7,437

Rateable Value — £166,498.

Sum represented by the Penny Rate — £655.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(1952 figures given in brackets)

POPULATION.

The estimated population at 30,490 shows a further increase of 130 over last year's figure (30,360). The excess of births over deaths was 248 (253) which would suggest immigration was for the time being being halted and that 118 individuals had left the town.

LIVE BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	241	253	494
Illegitimate ...	11	11	22
Total ...	252 (286)	264 (277)	516 (563)

Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 population):—

1953	1952	1951	1943	1953 (Eng. & Wales).
16.92	18.54	19.01	18.38	15.5

Illegitimacy Rate (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births):—

1953	1952	1951	1943
42.63	46.18	46.51	23.65

The number of births showed a marked decrease 516 (563) bringing the birth rate down more near to that of the whole country.

The illegitimacy rate was slightly lowered.

STILL BIRTHS.

STILL BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	4	5	9
Illegitimate ...	—	1	1
Total ...	4 (2)	6 (6)	10 (8)

Still-Birth Rate (Still-births per 1,000 live and still births):

1953	1952	1951	1943	1953 (Eng. & Wales).
19.01	14.01	21.01	32.97	22.4

The number of still-births showed an increase 10 (8).

The rate of still-births per 1,000 of the population of 0.33 was just below that for England and Wales of 0.35.

DEATHS.

DEATHS		
M	F	Total
141 (163)	127 (147)	268 (310)

Death Rate (Deaths per 1,000 population):—

1953	1952	1951	1943	1953 (Eng. & Wales).
8.22	10.21	11.36	10.54	11.4

The marked fall in the number of deaths demands some explanation.

During 1953 there was an alteration in the assessment of “transferable deaths.” Under G.R.O. Circular (M.O.H.) No. 4/1952 certain institutions became the “normal places of residence” of their patients. Prior to 1953 deaths in these institutions were “transferred out” from the districts in which such institutions were situated to the districts of normal residence usually those from which the patients were admitted.

The effect of this new move was to reduce the number of deaths ascribed by the Registrar-General to Redditch and so reduce the death rate.

With the co-operation of the Bromsgrove Hospitals I was able to ascertain that 39 Redditch patients (14 males and 25 females) died in those hospitals during 1953. These persons had been admitted from Redditch but became residents of Bromsgrove Urban District as a result of the above circular and their deaths were not "transferred out" to Redditch.

The addition of this number, 39 to the Registrar-General's figure of 268, would bring the number of deaths more close to that of the previous year.

However, there is no way of estimating the number of deaths of Redditch people which occurred in other parts of the country under similar circumstances. Therefore, there is no true means of comparing 1953 figures of deaths with those of previous years, except to say that there appeared to be no reason to suspect that any other agency beyond the statistical was conspiring to increase or decrease the mortality rates.

The principal causes of death were as follows:—

1. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System (including Inter-cranial vascular lesions) 48.9% of all deaths.
(45.8%)
2. Cancer (all forms) and other malignant disease 13.8% " " "
(18.4%)
3. Respiratory Disease (excluding T.B.) 15.6% " " "
(11.3%)
4. Road and Other Accidents 4.5% " " "
(3.9%)
5. Tuberculosis 3.7% " " "
(1.3%)

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT AND NEONATAL MORTALITY.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	3	5	8
Illegitimate ...	1	1	2
Total ...	4 (8)	6 (6)	10 (14)

DEATHS OF INFANTS WITHIN THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	—	3	3
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Total ...	1 (2)	3 (4)	4 (6)

Death Rates of Infant and Neonatal Deaths.

	1953	1952	1951	1943	Eng. & Wales. 1953
Death rate of legitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 legitimate births	16.19	26.07	31.95	—	—
Death rate of all illegitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	90.90	0.00	24.07	—	—
Death Rate of all infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births	7.75	10.65	21.46	—	—
Death rate of all infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	19.38	24.86	33.99	55.67	26.8 (27.6)

Causes of Infant Deaths.

(Neonatal Deaths in brackets)

	1953	1952	1951
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	2	7(2)
Congenital Malformation	2(1)	2(1)	—
Asphyxia	1	1	—
Heart Disease	1	1	3(3)
Birth Injury	1(1)	—	2(1)
Meningitis	1	—	2(2)
Prematurity	1(1)	5(5)	4(4)
Pink Disease	1	—	—
Acute Bronchitis	—	1	—
Accident	—	—	1
Want of Skilled Attention at Birth	1(1)	—	—

DEATHS BY AGE		
Age in years	1953 %	1952 %
0 — 1 ...	3.73	4.52
1 — 14 ...	2.24	3.23
15 — 24 ...	0.00	0.65
25 — 64 ...	29.85	25.16
65 and over	64.14	66.45

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT, 1953

CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1953	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1952
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	6	3	9	0.295	0.131
2. Other forms of Tu- berculosis	0	1	1	0.033	0
3. Syphilitic Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0.033
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0.033
5. Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infec- tions	0	0	0	0	0.033
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0	0	0
9. Other infectious and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0	0	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	2	8	0.262	0.395
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	5	0	5	0.164	0.198
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	3	3	0.098	0.296
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	0	0	0	0.066
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	6	21	0.689	0.922
15. Leukaemia, Aleukae- mia	0	0	0	0	0.033
16. Diabetes	2	3	5	0.164	0.066
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	8	15	23	0.754	1.416
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	22	11	33	1.082	1.113
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	2	3	5	0.164	0.131
20. Other Heart Disease	24	32	56	1.837	1.679
21. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	5	9	14	0.462	0.329
22. Influenza	2	4	6	0.197	0.066
23. Pneumonia	5	7	12	0.394	0.428
24. Bronchitis	11	12	23	0.754	0.658
25. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1	0.033	0.066
26. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	1	3	0.098	0.165
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	1	1	2	0.065	0.033
28. Nephritis and Neph- rosis	4	0	4	0.131	0.099
29. Hyperplasia of Pros- trate	3	0	3	0.098	0.066
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	0	0	0	0	0
31. Congenital Malform- ations	1	0	1	0.033	0.099
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	9	7	16	0.525	1.054
33. Motor Vehicle Acci- dents	2	1	3	0.098	0.066
34. All Other Accidents	4	5	9	0.295	0.329
35. Suicide	1	1	2	0.065	0.066
36. Homicide and Opera- tions of War ...	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ...	141	127	268	8.82	10.21
	(163)	(147)	(310)		

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) CLINICS AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Clinic	Situation	Time of Holding
Redditch Infant Welfare Centre	Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road	Monday and Tuesday 2 p.m.
Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Centre (including Diphtheria Immunisation)	Church Hall, Astwood Bank	2nd and 4th Mondays 2 p.m.
Feckenham Infant Welfare Centre (including Diphtheria Immunisation)	Village Hall, Feckenham	1st Wednesdays 2 p.m.
School Clinic	Old Vicarage	Thursdays 11.30 a.m.
Dental Clinic	"Old Crest," South Street	By appointment
Ante-natal Clinic	Old Vicarage	Tuesdays 10 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Old Vicarage	Mondays 10 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic	Old Vicarage	By appointment
Tuberculosis Clinic	Smallwood Hospital	Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Old Vicarage Bromsgrove Road	2nd and 4th Thursdays 9.30 a.m.
Vaccination	Old Vicarage Bromsgrove Road	4th Thursdays 10.30 a.m.

The County Council continued to provide, on their own behalf or administer as Agents for the Regional Hospital Board, the above health services in the district.

(b) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.

Three agencies provided the Midwifery Services in the district, (1) the family doctor—ante and post-natal care and home confinements, (2) the County Council—ante-natal clinics and district midwives, (3) the Regional Hospital Board—hospitals for delivery and treatment.

The County Council provided nurse-midwives who attended general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.

The Redditch Midwives and Nurses attended:—

220 cases as midwives making 3,970 visits.

21 cases as maternity nurses making 355 visits.

498 general nursing cases making 10,103 visits.

(c) HEALTH VISITING.

The County Council continued to provide a Health Visiting Service.

The Health Visitors serving the district were:—

Nurse L. K. Flood, High Street, Feckenham.

Nurse M. Hill, Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch.

Nurse W. A. M. Tilt, "Brynglas," Penmanor, Finstall

Nurse M. Pope, Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch.

(d) SCHOOL HEALTH.

The County Council continued to provide an extensive school health service. School Medical Officers carried out inspection of children and regular Minor Ailment Clinics were held at the Old Vicarage. Specialist, Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinics were also held.

A full-time Assistant School Dental Officer commenced work at a new Dental Clinic, "Old Crest," South Street, Redditch, in March.

(e) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

The County Council continued to provide this service. It was administered locally by the District Medical Officer of Health. Figures are available under Section F.

(f) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Public Health Laboratory Services, Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

The County Laboratory, County Buildings, Worcester.

These two laboratories rendered valuable service towards the detection and prevention of spread of disease in the district. Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service and the County Laboratory carried out chemical analyses of water, ice cream, etc.

(g) HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals were available to the residents of the district:--

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Infectious Diseases ... | Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen, and Little Bromwich Fever Hospital. |
| 2. Maternity | All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, The Redditch Maternity Hospital, Mary Stephens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge; and Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. |
| 3. General Medical and Surgical Cases ... | Smallwood Hospital, Redditch, All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, and various Birmingham Hospitals. |
| 4. Children's Diseases | The Children's Hospital, Birmingham. |
| 5. Venereal Disease ... | The General Hospital, Birmingham
The Royal Infirmary, Worcester. |
| 6. Aged Chronic Sick ... | All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove. |
| 7. Mental Illness ... | Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove. |

All these hospital services with the exception of the Redditch Maternity Hospital, a voluntary body, were provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(h) AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council provided an extensive ambulance service throughout the County. A section operating in Redditch served the district.

(i) HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Council continued to subscribe to the Central Council for Health Education whose services were utilised during the year for the provision of leaflets and posters.

(j) DAY NURSERY.

The County Council continued to maintain a day nursery in the grounds of the Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch.

(k) HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The service continued to function well during the year. It was conducted through the agency of the W.V.S. for the County Council by Mrs. L. M. Brown who is to be complimented on a very valuable and efficient service.

The number of Home Helps employed was four full time and two part time. The service was available for families during confinement or illness of the mother, in cases of chronic sickness and for old people. A charge was made which could be scaled down in cases of need. Home Helps were sent to 104 cases.

Cases dealt with :					
Maternity	...	...	...	...	30
Chronic Sick and Aged	...	...	...	...	39
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2
Blind Persons	...	...	...	...	2
Others	...	...	...	...	31
					<hr/> 104 <hr/>

(I) CARE OF THE AGED.

The W.V.S. continued to provide a "meals-on-wheels" service for old people in their homes. This service is as yet limited by the funds and equipment available. It operates one day a week when 28 — 30 meals are delivered.

Following my appeal in last year's Annual Report for a greater community interest in the home care of the elderly, meetings of the Old Peoples' Welfare Committee were called and a small Old Peoples' Advisory Committee was formed to try to institute a scheme for the registration of old folks living alone and their regular visiting—as far as possible on a voluntary basis.

The work of this committee has progressed slowly. Its policy has been to avoid precipitate action which would perhaps result in undesirable invasion of the privacy of the elderly folk. A register of old people living alone is being compiled.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

A detailed report of the sanitary work carried out during 1953 is given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. The district was kept thoroughly inspected throughout the year.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mains supplies were provided by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. Supplies were taken regularly and the supply found to be consistently of a good quality. A specimen report is given below:

Sample marked "Needham House," Dagnell End Road, Redditch.

Physical Characters.	Clear
Odour	None
Deposit	None

Chemical Examination (Results in parts per 100,000)

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100° C)	...	Nil
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180° C)	...	21
" " " (After Ignition)	...	19
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	2.8
Hardness Permanent	...	5
" Temporary	...	8
" Total	...	13
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	0.53
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	Nil
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 Hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)	...	Nil
Toxic Metals	...	None detected

Bacteriological Examination

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar

(a) In two days at 37° C	...	3 per one ml.
(b) In three days at 22° C	...	5 per one ml.
Coli-Aerogenes Count	...	Nil per 100 ml.

Opinion: The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,
County Analyst.

9th October, 1953.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The main sewage disposal works are situated at Studley Road, Redditch. The works are modern, having been constructed during the past war but are in urgent need of enlargement. Trouble was experienced during the year due to the discharge of "chrome liquor" into the sewers. Every effort was made to trace the malefactors without much success and much publicity was given to the danger of this practice causing a breakdown of the purification plant.

Four other disposal plants served Astwood Bank, Hunt End, Webheath and Feckenham. A reconstruction of the Feckenham plant was still under consideration. The need for this has become apparent due to the additional houses that have been connected to the sewer as a result of pail closet conversions.

Vaccination.

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED OR RE-VACCINATED DURING 1953.						
AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	316 (254)	11	8	4	3	342 (300)
Number Re-vaccinated	—	—	—	1	11	12 (55)

There was an increase in the number of primary vaccinations of infants under 1 year. The number vaccinated, 316, being 58.5% of the average number of births in the two years 1952 and 1953 which was 540.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY DURING 1953.

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5—	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
15—	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
45—	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
55—	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 and over	3	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Totals	23	9	1	2	5	3	0	2

The number of cases on the register on 31st December, 1953, was:—

	M.	F.	Total	Total on December 31st, 1952.
Pulmonary	114	67	181	160
Non-Pulmonary	16	12	28	29
Total	130	79	209	189

Tuberculosis continued to be notified to the Urban District Council. It ceased to be a statutory duty for the Council to maintain a tuberculosis register. This duty becoming the sole responsibility of the County Council. However, your Health Department continued to keep a list of tuberculosis patients resident within the district, maintained up-to-date by the new notifications and information received from the County Tuberculosis Officer.

During the year there were 32 (26) new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 (4) new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 10 (9) deaths from Tuberculosis. The number of registered cases showed an increase of 20.

The Dudley Mobile Mass Miniature Radiography Unit paid a visit to Redditch in October and November. The Unit held sessions at the larger works as well as public sessions.

NUMBERS X-RAYED.

	Numbers	Cases found
Factory Personnel	6,900	12
Civil Service, Police, Office Workers, etc.	1,231	3
General Public	1,395	2
School Leavers	549	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	10,073	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>

This gave a rate of active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis found per 1,000 examinees of 1.7 — a very satisfactory result. There was no suggestion of the presence of any unsuspected industrial or social hazard predisposing to tuberculosis.

SECTION F.
Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1953.

Disease	Corrected Notifications	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	44	10	0
Measles	82	1	0
Whooping Cough	120	0	0
Typhoid Fever	1	1	0
Paratyphoid	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	13		0(12)
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	1	0	0
Totals ...	268	13	0(12)

The figures given in the table are of corrected notifications, i.e. confirmed cases.

The number of infectious diseases notified was 488 less than in the previous year. This reduction was mainly due to a reduction in the number of cases of measles from 566 to 82—showing the biennial variation of the disease.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis.

DIPHTHERIA.

Diphtheria Incidence and Mortality 1933 — 1953		
Year	Cases	Deaths
1933—43	380	25 (6.5%)
1944	5	—
1945	4	1
1946	4	—
1947	1	—
1948	1	—
1949	9	—
1950	1	—
1951	22	3
1952	19	1
1953	—	—

There were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year.

The above table showing the number of cases and deaths from diphtheria during the period 1933-1953 indicates that though the incidence may fall the case mortality remains the same or may increase should there be a recrudescence of the disease.

The "enemy" may be at bay but we must continue to ensure that all children are adequately protected by immunisation. Only in this way will it be possible to continue to record NIL returns of diphtheria cases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The "Immunisation State" of Redditch children on December 31st, 1953, was as follows:—

Year of Birth Age	1953 0-1	1952-49 1-4	1948-44 5-9	1943-39 10-14	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster):					
A. 1949-1953	26	1,911	2,521	1,361	5,819
B. 1948 or earlier	—	—	296	1,059	1,355
C. Estimated Population	2,694		4,576		7,270
Immunity Index 100 A/C	71.9%		84.8%		80%

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:—

	1953	1952	1951	1950
Primary Immunisations :				
Under 5 years old	472	520	671	377
5 - 14 years old	28	227	81	16
Re-inforcing "Booster" injections	579	1,226	1,424	286

A new form of return for the "Immunised State" of children was instituted this year. Previously all children immunised at any time recent or remote under the age of 15 years were included. It was decided that this did not give an accurate picture of the "state of protection" of these children, it being known that protection diminishes in time without "boosting."

The "Immunity Index" now refers only to children who have received either a "primary" or "booster" course of injections within the five years directly preceeding the return.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of smallpox occurred in Redditch.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

There was little change in the number of applications for council houses or the reasons for application.

Below are the housing figures for 1953:—

Number of houses built by Council during year	...	118 (131)
Number of houses built by private enterprise	...	86 (20)
Number of houses under construction by Council	...	200 (122)
Number of houses under construction by private enterprise		46 (37)
Total number of post-war Council houses built	...	1,460 (1,352)

Population in relation to the number of inhabited dwellings:

Year	Population (Estimated)	Increase or decrease in Pop.	Natural Increase (births less deaths)	Increase by Immigration	Units of accommodation (u. of a.)	Increase of u. of a.	Number of Persons per u. of a.
1938	22,560	—	—	—	7,116	—	3.17
1942	23,960	—	—	—	7,416	—	3.23
1943	26,390	2,430	207	2,223	7,437	21	3.55
1944	25,940	-450	335	-785	7,437	0	3.49
1945	25,470	-470	190	-660	7,486	49	3.40
1946	26,040	570	272	298	7,792	306	3.34
1947	26,680	640	197	443	8,054	262	3.31
1948	27,900	1,220	199	1,021	8,265	211	3.38
1949	28,440	540	206	334	8,536	271	3.33
1950	29,110	670	229	441	8,831	295	3.30
1951	29,400	290	225	65	9,073	242	3.24
1952	30,360	960	253	707	9,261	188	3.28
1953	30,490	130	248	-118	9,456	195	3.22
1945 to 1953		5,020 (4,890)	1,839 (1,581)	3,191 (3,309)		1,970 (1,775)	

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES.

Inspection of food premises increased during the year and every effort was made to bring to the notice of the occupiers their obligations under the food bye-laws. The standard of premises was improved but a number of cases of careless food handling were brought to the notice of the department. In spite of all the work that has been done throughout the country by way of lectures, etc., the food handler does not realise the dangers of contaminated food. The ultimate solution must be to include food hygiene in the school curriculum.

Food Poisoning.

One case of food poisoning was reported. This was found to have been caused by the digestion of infected ham. However, it was not possible to prove this bacteriologically.

MEAT.

No meat was slaughtered in this area for sale for human consumption. Supplies were received from the Government controlled slaughterhouse at Alcester. Regular visits were made to butchers shops and stalls and no complains were received concerning transport.

ICE-CREAM.

The standard of ice-cream sold throughout the district was excellent. All samples were bacteriologically in Grade 1 and contained a satisfactory fat content.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1953.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Redditch Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my fifteenth annual report and details of inspections made and improvements effected are as follows:—

INSPECTIONS.

Accumulations									
Found	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Animals Kept	—	Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
		Fowls, Pigeons, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Complaints	—	Total number investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	501
Cottagers' Pigs	—	No. of notifications of slaughter	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
		No. of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Drainage	—	No. of drains found choked	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
		No. of drains found defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
		No. of drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	352
		Visits to works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	317
		Visits to premises re cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Dwelling Houses	—	Visits to applicants for council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	753
		No. inspected re repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,168
		Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,223
		No. inspected re overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
		No. found dirty	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
		No. found verminous (Premises)	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
		No. found verminous (Persons)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
		Visits re pail closet conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
		No. of systematic inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
Rodent Control	—	No. of premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,497
		No. of premises found infested	...	...	...	...	...	...	386
		Total number of visits for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,259
Infectious Diseases		Visits re Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
		Visits re Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Visits re Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Factories	—	With mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
		Without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
		Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
		Other Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	71

Food Premises	—	Butchers shops or stalls ...	...	...	129
		Confectioners ...	...	...	74
		Market ...	...	...	43
		Dairies and Milk shops ...	...	...	63
		Fishmongers and Fried Fish shops ...	...	...	37
		Greengrocers and Grocers ...	...	...	251
		Licensed Premises ...	...	...	15
		Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers			102
		Ice Cream Samples taken ...	...	...	49
		Preparation of potted meat etc. ...	...	...	9
		Restaurants, Cafe kitchens and factory canteens ...	...	...	83
Knackers Yard	—	...	...	...	17
Shops Acts	—	...	...	...	53
Smoke Abatement	—	No. of observations made	...	...	33
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.		...	...	...	27
Water Supplies	—	Visits to premises re wells	...	...	23
		No. of Samples taken ...	...	...	7
Local Authority					
Premises	—	Tips ...	...	...	23
		Sewage Works ...	...	...	12
		Sanitary Conveniences ...	...	...	25
		Swimming Baths ...	...	...	9
		Samples of water taken from baths ...	...	...	4
Visits made to Premises re Building Licences		...	...	...	7
		Miscellaneous visits ...	...	...	382
Total number of inspections					7,415

IMPROVEMENTS.

Houses generally repaired	...	...	...	114
Wash-houses repaired	...	...	...	26
Water closets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	39
Pail closets converted to water closets	...	...	...	13
Pail closets repaired	...	...	...	6
Waste water closets abolished	...	...	...	—
Trough closets converted to water closets	...	...	...	—
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	14
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	14
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	23
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	17
Drains repaired	...	...	...	6
Wells abolished and mains supplies laid on	...	...	...	4
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	11
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	2
Dustbins provided (by owner)	...	...	...	16
Dustbins provided (by Council)	...	...	...	—
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	14

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND FLEAS.

Fourteen houses, including three council houses, were found to be infested with bugs or fleas. Treatment depends on the type of infestation. Bugs are dealt with by spraying the room and bed-

steads with 5% D.D.T. in Kerosine or Zaldecide. Fleas and lice are dealt with by spraying bed, pillows, sheets, blankets, etc., with Geigy dust and the sprayer is loaned to the occupier to spray the clothing of the family. Re-inspections are made in each case.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register contains 34 distributors of milk (1 tuberculin tested, 9 tuberculin tested pasteurised, 9 pasteurised and 6 sterilised). Satisfactory reports were received in respect of all the samples.

Licences granted during the year for the sale of designated milks were as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	11
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	11
Sterilised Milk	...	...	7

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied throughout the district by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. Six samples of mains water were taken for analysis all of which were satisfactory. A typical analysis of a sample is given under Section C of the report.

Of the 9,456 houses in the district 99.03% have mains supplies and only 91 houses are using wells. Possibly a further improvement could be effected by an extension of mains supplies to Ipsley which would enable another 18 wells to be abolished but the capital cost would probably amount to at least £122 per house. Any further schemes would be even more uneconomic. The remainder of the houses using wells are very isolated in the outlying area. The quality of the water at all the premises has been noted and the occupiers informed of what action should be taken.

Mr. F. H. Bullock, Water Engineer, East Worcestershire Water Works Co., informs me that during the year 1953 the following extensions of water mains were carried out:—

Forge Mill Road	...	...	95 yds. of 3-inch. main
Poplar Road	...	...	92 yds. of 3-inch. main
Poplar Road and Foxlydiate Crescent	...	...	590 yds. of 3-inch. main
Feckenham Road	...	...	279 yds. of 12-inch. main
			483 yds. of 9-inch. main
			189 yds. of 8-inch. main
Mount Pleasant, Ham Green to Bentley Manor	...	...	1,073 yds. of 4-inch. main
Ham Green to Blaze Lane	...	...	879 yds. of 4-inch main
Oakenshaw Road	...	...	129 yds. of 3-inch main

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat supplied in the town is received from the Government controlled slaughterhouse at Alcester, at which all food animals have been slaughtered since 1940. The method of transporting meat to the shops is now satisfactory. An improved type of body for hanging carcasses is now used.

Byelaws made under the provisions of Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been adopted. Their object is to secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air. Dr. Shennan and I attended a meeting of the Redditch Chambers of Trade when we spoke to the members on the operation of the byelaws and the points to which occupiers of food premises should direct their attention. We also spoke to the members on food hygiene. This was followed up by giving a lecture to shop assistants on food hygiene at the College of Further Education.

Occupiers of premises where food is prepared or sold have carried out a lot of improvements since the byelaws came into operation, and it must be obvious, even to a casual observer, of the more hygienic display of foodstuffs in some trades, particularly confectionary and greengrocery.

Unfortunately it is not sufficient to improve premises to comply with regulations unless the standard of cleanliness of personnel and the manner in which they handle food is also improved. Members of the public bring to our notice cases of contamination of food which could with care have been avoided. In fact some cases are the result of absolute carelessness on the part of the food handler. It is very difficult to convince them generally of the danger of bacterial contamination, and the education of personnel is a very slow process.

It was my intention to include in this report details of the various food trades and premises and I was engaged on this when I entered hospital, but unfortunately this cannot be completed in time for this report.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)					78
Number inspected ...					59
All diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned ...					—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...					2
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affect- ed with disease other than tuberculosis					3.4%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...					—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...					3
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affect- ed with tuberculosis					5.1%

The following is a list of other foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Ham	...	...	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	35 Tins
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	49 Tins
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	33 lbs.
Jellied Veal	...	...	...	...	...	17 Tins
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	...	...	3 Tins
Irish Stew	...	...	...	...	...	4 Tins
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	...	3 Tins
Chicken Broth	...	...	...	...	...	1 Tin
Chicken Boneless	...	...	...	...	...	1 Jar
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	4 Tins
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	233½ lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	32 Tins
Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Pigs Fry	...	...	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	19 Tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	113 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	477 Tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	10 Jars
Fruit Salad	...	...	...	...	...	1 Tin
Fruit Salad	...	...	...	...	...	2 Jars
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	9 Tins
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1 Packet
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	...	4 Tins
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	...	42 Tins
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	7 Tins
Full Cream Milk	...	...	...	...	...	5 Tins
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	7 Tins
Lemon Squash	...	...	...	...	...	1 Bottle
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	2 Bottles
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	5 Tins
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	150 Tins
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	105 Tins
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	2 Tins
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	76 Tins
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	4 Tins
Cheese Waste	...	...	...	...	...	9½ lbs.
Pickled Onions	...	...	...	...	...	2 Jars
Pickled Cabbage	...	...	...	...	...	2 Jars
Branston Pickle	...	...	...	...	...	1 Jar
Barley	...	...	...	...	...	2 Tins
Groats	...	...	...	...	...	1 Tin

ICE CREAM.

Ninety-eight premises are registered to retail ice cream, and of these nine are registered to manufacture. During the year 102 inspections were made and 49 samples taken for an analysis, all of which were satisfactory. A summary of the results of samples taken is as follows:—

Bacteriological.

Number of samples taken — 31	Grade 1 — 31
	„ 2 — Nil.
	„ 3 — Nil.
	„ 4 — Nil.

The methlene blue test places the samples in one of four provisional grades. Numbers 1 and 2 are satisfactory and numbers 3 and 4 unsatisfactory, particularly grade 4.

Chemical.

Number of samples taken — 18	
Minimum fat content allowed ...	5%
Sample with minimum fat content ...	5.4%
Sample with maximum fat content ...	18.5%
Average of all samples ...	11.3%

RODENT CONTROL.

Local authority premises, such as refuse tips and sewage works, are regularly inspected and treated when necessary. The analysis of Inspection and Treatment is as follows:—

Inspections:

Number of domestic premises inspected ...	1,211
„ „ business „ „ ...	92
„ „ local authority premises inspected ...	77
„ „ farms inspected ...	76
Total number of premises inspected	1,456

Infestations Found:

Total number of infestations found ...	386
--	-----

Analysis of Infestations:

Number of infestations found (Rats) (Major) ...	9
„ „ „ „ „ (Minor) ...	352
Total number of infestations of rats found	361
Number of infestations found (Mice) (Major) ...	1
„ „ „ „ „ (Minor) ...	24
Total number of infestations of mice found	25

Treatment:

Number of first treatments ...	...	...	...	...	346
" " second treatments ...	...	...	...	...	14
Total number of treatments					360
Total number of visits for treatment					2,217

Analysis of First Treatments:

Number of first treatments (Rats) (Major)	...	...	8
" " " " " (Minor)	...	...	313
" " " " (Mice) (Major)	...	...	1
" " " " " (Minor)	...	...	24
			<hr/>
Total number of first treatments (Rats and Mice)			346

Sewer Maintenance Treatment:

Number of sewer maintenance treatments	...	...	2
„ „ manholes baited (first treatment)	...	...	116
„ „ „ „ (second treatment)	...	...	107
Total number of manholes baited			<u>223</u>

Analysis of First Treatment:

Bait Base. Damp Sausage Rusk and Arsenious Oxide (10%)

Number of manholes test baited (10% of manholes not included in previous treatment)	...	...	70
Number of manholes baited (actual treatment)	...	...	116
" " " showing prebait take	...	...	63
" " " " complete prebait take	...	...	43
" " " " partial prebait take	...	...	20

Analysis of Second Treatment:

Bait Base: Bread Mash with 2½% Zinc Phosphide.

Number of manholes baited (actual treatment)	...	...	107
" " " showing prebait take	...	...	48
" " " " complete prebait take	...	...	32
" " " " partial prebait take	...	...	16

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Number of pail closets converted into water closets	13
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Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1953:—

Water closets	9,314
Automatically flushed w.c's.	...	...	30
Waste water closets	...	...	12
Pail closets	...	...	202
Earth closets	...	...	17

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLINGS MATERIALS ACT, 1951

The main purpose of this Act is to improve the standard of cleanliness of fillings used in upholstery and for the registration of premises where this work is carried out. Two such premises are registered in this district and a sample of rag flock from each has been submitted for analysis with the following results:—

(a) **Watton's Furnishing Store,
Prospect Hill, Redditch**

Chlorine content ...	...	15 parts per 1000,000
Oil ...	...	1.0%
Soap ...	...	1.2%
Soluble impurities I ...	...	1.4%
II ...	...	1.4%
III ...	...	1.5%
Average ...	...	1.4%

(b) **Messrs. Williams & Styler,
Unicorn Hill, Redditch**

Chlorine content ...	...	13 parts per 1000,000
Oil ...	...	1.3%
Soap ...	...	1.1%
Soluble impurities I ...	...	1.4%
II ...	...	1.5%
III ...	...	1.4%
Average ...	...	1.4%

The regulations provide that the chlorines shall not exceed 30 parts per 100,000, oil and soap 5% and impurities test (in triplicate) not to contain more than 1.8% of soluble impurities.

Both samples are satisfactory.

HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,168
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2,391
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	185
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	185
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human inhabitation	207
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	183

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	126
--	-----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) | By Owners | Nil |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |
| (b) | Proceeding under Public Health Acts. | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 57 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) | By Owners | 71 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |
| (c) | Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 6 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 2 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |
| (d) | Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV., OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	48
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	88
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	332
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	11
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	30
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	105
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	3

FACTORIES.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of			
	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	52	19	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	254	83	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	13	71	—	—
TOTAL ...	319	173	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. In- spector (4)	Referred By H.M. In- spector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	3	3	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	11	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17	17	—	—	—

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. CHAMPION,

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

MOBBS & SPOONER (1953) LTD.,

PRINTERS,

REDDITCH.